



Volunteer Position Description: Eastern Box Turtle Surveying

Report To: Regional Natural Resource Steward

Goal of Position: Locate Eastern Box Turtles within critical areas of Fort Custer Recreation Area to track behavior and populations in prescribed burn units.

Timeframe: April thru October

Time Required: Variable, approximately three hours per outing. Volunteers may be contacted on short notice.

Position Requirements:

- Flexibility- Survey work is sometimes planned in advance but may also come on short notice depending on prescribed burn activity.
- Ability to work both independently and as a member of a team.
- Ability to walk and survey in open or forested areas.
- Ability to work in variable, sometimes adverse site conditions (biting insects, mud, etc.).

Training Required:

- No experience required; training provided on site by project leader.

How will a volunteer benefit from this position?

Volunteers will assist the DNR in natural resource management while enjoying Fort Custer Recreation Area and gaining valuable experience. This experience will provide a unique opportunity to learn to identify Eastern box turtles and observe the effects of prescribed fire on systems.

How will this help our state parks and recreation areas?

By documenting and understanding how Eastern box turtles are using Fort Custer Recreation Area, adaptive management strategies can be developed and implemented to lessen the negative impacts of management on the box turtle population. The Stewardship Unit focuses on restoring Michigan's unique ecosystems and preserving our native species. Volunteers can have a big impact on sustaining these natural resources for future generations to enjoy.